

This introduces into the process some data that is untainted by self-interest," said Mr. Black. He anticipated the study would be done by early December. Any recommendations by the committee, however, still will have to be approved by the council.

"We're going to have to face up to it [the issue of a pay raise] eventually," said council member Ron Whitehead. "There's no reason to keep dodging the bullet."

But with an independent committee making the recommendation, a pay raise would be easier to sell

■ See B-2, Column 4

## Records, Diaries in CFS Case

attorney representing 30 investors in a lawsuit against Zions, announced Tuesday that Mr. Whitehead was obligated to tell the court that CFS was in rough shape and the bank could inform investors that CFS was a risky venture.

Attorneys' lawyer William Riley doubts the high LDS officials knew much about CFS's problems.

He was very surprised if this is more than a fishing expedition," Mr. Riley said of the allegations on the LDS elders.

The LDS Church Tuesday had no comment on the request for records. Mr. Hinckley is first counselor to the president and Elder L. Tom Peters is a member of the First Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. The church founded the bank and operated it until 1960.

The demand for the church's records is the latest chapter in a 1988 federal lawsuit in which investors, mostly small-business owners who put up with the church's pension funds, allege the church had a conflict of interest that swelled the size of their

losses. Mr. Whitehead was the investors' trustee for CFS investments. Yet until the lawsuit, the bank had given the investors \$6 million to keep it quiet about CFS's woes, the investors say. The bank had defaulted on loans. Unwary investors had poured more funds into CFS — the same way CFS used to repay

■ See B-2, Column 5

Ms. Mark. Callers proclaimed their love for her and suggested strategies for a third phone-in fundraising marathon.

"I just hope we get a jury of K-Talk listeners [for her]," one caller said. "That would be fun!"

The allegations center on \$600 trips to Mexico and Hawaii advertised on the station in 1991. Salt Lake City businessman Gene Parrish was charged with using buy-

But, the judge concluded, "I'm convinced she knew they had to get extra money for the purpose of funding those trips."

Parrish has pleaded guilty to six of 57 charges and is awaiting sentencing. Mr. Didier has not been charged. Former employee Rubin Rodriguez has been charged with eight counts of communications fraud, and a hearing in his case is scheduled Monday.

## Use of Cyanide To Mine Gold Causes Concern

By Jim Woolf  
THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

ST. GEORGE — Twenty-two tons of dirt and rock are dug up and processed at Tenneco's Goldstrike Mine to obtain enough gold for a single wedding ring.

The venture is profitable because it is massive. Giant shovels and dump trucks move about 5 million tons of dirt and ore each year on a desolate mountain ridge 38 miles northwest of St. George. Annual gold production is about 40,000 ounces, worth more than \$14 million.

The Goldstrike is one of three large gold mines in Utah that uses a cyanide solution to extract the precious metal from low-grade ore. The process, which became popular several years ago in northern Nevada, allows gold to be mined from marginal deposits.

While the so-called "cyanide heap-leach mines" are profitable for the mining companies and generate jobs and tax revenues, environmentalists fear the long-term costs may exceed the benefits.

"Heap-leach mines are environmental time bombs," said David Alberswerth, director of public lands and energy for the National Wildlife Federation.

The huge quantities of material that must be dug up by these



Barry Kough/The Salt Lake Tribune

A truck at the Goldstrike Mine near St. George dumps a load of overburden rock waste from a new pit into a previously mined pit.

■ See B-3, Column 6

**Hall of Honors**  
"Hall of Honors" banquet  
celebrate annual Harvest Days,  
LDS Stake Center, 425  
St., Midvale, 7 p.m.

**Brown Bag Concert**  
Day Is Done, children's radio theater, music, storytelling, 12:15 p.m., Dinwoodey Mini-Park, 50 W. 100 South, Salt Lake City.

**Chinese Art Exhibit**  
Works by contemporary Chinese artists, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Meyer Gallery, 305 S. Main St., Park City.

**Holistic Medicine**  
Workshop on holistic medicine, 6:30 p.m., faculty lounge, Utah Valley Community College, 800 W. 1200 South, Orem.

SALT LAKE TRIBUNE AUG. 5, 1992

M1053/005



## Cyanide Process To Mine Gold Causes Concern

■ Continued from B-1

mines disrupt wildlife habitat and watersheds, Mr. Alberswerth says, and the cyanide contaminates water supplies and poisons animals. The National Wildlife Federation estimates that at least 10,000 animals have been killed in the West by cyanide. Most were birds attracted to cyanide-filled ponds at mines in Nevada.

Most of the problems cited by environmentalists occurred when the first cyanide heap-leach mines opened in Nevada, says Greg Boyce, spokesman for Kennecott.

"We had the luxury of a lot of hindsight when we built our Barney's Canyon Mine," Mr. Boyce said. Barney's Canyon, which opened in 1988, is located several miles north of the Bingham Canyon Mine in the Oquirrh Mountains in western Salt Lake County. The third mine is the Barrick Mercur Mine on the southwestern side of the Oquirrh Mountains in Tooele County.

The most critical issue facing miners is to keep the cyanide solution from polluting streams and the ground water. While high concentrations of cyanide can be deadly to humans, the solution used at Utah's mines has been diluted with water to between 100 and 200 parts per million.

Visitors can safely dip a finger in this mixture and taste the cyanide, but it is still about 100 times higher than the state drinking-water standard and is capable of killing fish, waterfowl and deer.

"It's plenty potent," said Don Ostler, director of the Utah Division of Water Quality.

Mr. Ostler's staff requires the use of clay and plastic liners under all storage ponds and leach pads, double-lined plastic pipes, leak-detection systems, and ground-water monitoring wells.

State records indicate that cyanide spills and leaks have occurred at all three of the mines. However, it appears all the leaks were small and caught early enough to prevent any significant environmental problems.

Utah mine operators have reported a small number of animal deaths as a result of exposure to cyanide. Rumors circulate about unreported incidents, however.

Mr. Ostler said wildlife protection is one of the "gaps" in Utah mining laws. It is unclear, for example, which agency needs to be notified when dead animals are discovered, and who can force mine operators to install fences and screens to protect them.

Then, there is the issue of closing and reclaiming the mines. The gold deposits being mined are relatively small and should be exhausted within several years.

State regulators want the miners to rinse the cyanide and any dangerous metals from their spent-ore piles before leaving the area. This could be done with either water or chemicals, but it might take years to accomplish.

Spent-ore piles will then be contoured to a natural shape, covered with top soil and planted. Most of the roads and building sites will be reclaimed.

Most of the large pits will remain. The Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining has regulations requiring pits to be back-filled, but variances to this rule have been granted "rather arbitrarily in the past," conceded D. Wayne Hedberg, permit supervisor.

He said a new policy is being developed that should discourage mining companies from leaving open pits and steep cliffs.

Tenneco is the only cyanide heap-leach mine in Utah that has volunteered to partially refill its pits. One pit is filled as another is mined.

"Come back in a year or two and look at what can be done," said Ken A. Kluksdahl, manager of the Goldstrike Mine.

"I'm confident it will all be here," said Mr. Kluksdahl.